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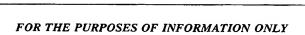
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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING KAPPA3 OPIOID RECEPTORS, RECEPTORS ENCODED THEREBY, AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract

The subject invention provides recombinant nucleic acid molecule which encodes a kappa3 opioid receptor, and the receptor encoded thereby. The subject invention further provides related anti-sense oligonucleotide molecules. The subject invention further provides a related host vector system, and method for using same. The subject invention further provides polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa3 opioid receptor, methods for obtaining same, and methods of using same to detect the presence of, and quantitatively determine the amount of kappa3 opioid receptor in a sample, image and quantitatively determine the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa3 opioid receptor present in a subject, determine a subject's potential sensitivity to a kappa3 opioid receptor-specific agent, determine the affinity of an agent for kappa3 opioid receptor, and identify agonists and antagonists of kappa3 opioid receptor.



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NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING KAPPA, OPIOID RECEPTORS, RECEPTORS ENCODED THEREBY, AND USES THEREOF

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This invention was made with support under Grant Nos. DA02615 RO1 and 1K02 DA00138 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Accordingly, the U.S. government has certain rights in the invention.

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Background of the Invention

Throughout this application, various publications are referenced. Full citations for these references may be found at the end of the specification immediately preceding the claims. The disclosure of these publications is hereby incorporated by reference into this application to describe more fully the art to which this invention pertains.

- Opioid drugs have various effects on perception of pain, consciousness, motor control, mood, and autonomic function and can also induce physical dependence (Koob, et al (1992)). The endogenous opioid system plays an important role in modulating endocrine, cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal and immune functions (Olson, et al (1989)). Opioids exert their actions by binding to specific membrane-
- associated receptors located throughout the central and peripheral nervous system (Pert, et al. (1973)). The endogenous ligands of these opioid receptors have been identified as a family of more than 20 opioid peptides that derive from the three precursor proteins proopiomelanocortin, proenkephalin, and prodynorphin (Hughes, et al. (1975); Akil, et al. (1984)). Although the opioid peptides belong to a class of molecules distinct from the opioid alkaloids, they share common structural features

including a positive charge juxtaposed with an aromatic ring



that is required for interaction with the receptor (Bradbury, et al. (1976)).

Pharmacological studies have suggested that there are at 5 least three major classes of opioid receptors, designated δ , κ , μ and σ (Simon 1991; Lutz, et al. (1992)). The classes differ in their affinity for various opioid ligands and in The different classes of their cellular distribution. serve different to believed are receptors physiological functions (Olson, et al., (1989); Simon 10 (1991); Lutz & Pfister (1992)). However, there substantial overlap of function as well as of distribution.

Despite pharmacological and physiological heterogeneity, at least some types of opioid receptors inhibit adenylate cyclase, increase K₊ conductance, and inactivate Ca²⁺ channels through a pertussis toxin-sensitive mechanism (Puttfarcken, et al. 1988; Attali, et al. 1989; Hsia, et al., 1984). These results and others suggest that opioid receptors belong to the large family of cell surface receptors that signal through G proteins (Di Chiara, et al. (1992); Loh, et al. (1990)).

Several attempts to clone cDNAs encoding opioid receptors 25 have been reported. A cDNA encoding an opioid-binding protein (OBCAM) with μ selectivity was isolated (Schofield, predicted protein the (1989)), but domains signal transmembrane presumed necessary for transduction. More recently, the isolation of another cDNA 30 was reported, which was obtained by expression cloning (Xie, et al. (1992)). The deduced protein sequence displays seven putative transmembrane domains and is very similar to the human neuromedin K receptor. However, the affinity of opioid ligands for this receptor expressed in COS cells is





two orders of magnitude below the expected value, and no subtype selectivity can be shown.

Many cell surface receptor/transmembrane systems consist of at least three membrane-bound polypeptide components: (a) a cell-surface receptor; (b) an effector, such as an ion channel or the enzyme adenylate cyclase; and (c) a guanine nucleotide-binding regulatory polypeptide or G protein, that is coupled to both the receptor and its effector.

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G protein-coupled receptors mediate the actions of extracellular signals as diverse as light, odorants, peptide hormones and neurotransmitters. Such receptors have been identified in organisms as evolutionarily divergent as yeast and man. Nearly all G protein coupled receptors bear sequence similarities with one another, and it is thought that all share a similar topological motif consisting of seven hydrophobic (and potentially α -helical) segments that span the lipid bilayer (Dohlman et al. (1987); Dohlman et al. (1991)).

G proteins consist of three tightly associated subunits, α , β and γ (1:1:1) in order of decreasing mass. Following agonist binding to the receptor, a conformational change is transmitted to the G protein, which causes the G α -subunit to exchange a bound GDP for GTP and to dissociate from the $\beta\gamma$ -subunits. The GTP-bound form of the α -subunit is typically the effector-modulating moiety. Signal amplification results from the ability of a single receptor to activate many G protein molecules, and from the stimulation by G α -GTP of many catalytic cycles of the effector.

The family of regulatory G proteins comprises a multiplicity of different α -subunits (greater than twenty in humans), which associate with a smaller pool of β - and γ -subunits



(greater than four each) (Strothman and Simon (1991)). Thus, it is anticipated that differences in the α -subunits probably distinguish the various G protein oligomers, although the targeting or function of the various α -subunits might also depend on the $\beta\gamma$ subunits with which they associate (Strothman and Simon (1991).

Improvements in cell culture and in pharmacological methods, and more recently, use of molecular cloning and gene 10 expression techniques have led to the identification and characterization of many seven-transmembrane receptors, including new sub-types and sub-sub-types of previously identified receptors. The α_1 and α_2 -adrenergic receptors once thought to each consist of single receptor species, are now known to each be encoded by at least three 15 distinct genes (Kobilka et al. (1987); Regan et al. (1988); Cotecchia et al. (1988); Lomasney (1990)). In addition to rhodopsin in rod cells, which mediates vision in dim light, three highly similar cone pigments mediating color vision 20 have been cloned (Nathans et al. (1986) A; and Nathans et al. (1986)B). All of the family of G protein-coupled receptors appear to be similar to other members of the family of G protein-coupled receptors (e.g., dopaminergic, muscarinic, serotonergic, tachykinin), and each appears to share the characteristic seven-transmembrane segment topography. 25

When comparing the seven-transmembrane segment receptors with one another, a discernible pattern of amino acid sequence conservation is observed. Transmembrane domains are often the most similar, whereas the amino and carboxyl terminal regions and the cytoplasmic loop connecting transmembrane segments V and VI can be quite divergent (Dohlman et al. (1987)).

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Interaction with cytoplasmic polypeptides, such as kinases and G proteins, was predicted to involve the hydrophobic loops connecting the transmembrane domains of the receptor. The challenge, however, has been to determine which features are preserved among the seven-transmembrane segment receptors because of conservation of function, and which divergent features represent structural adaptations to new functions. A number of strategies have been used to test these ideas, including the use of recombinant DNA and gene expression techniques for the construction of substitution and deletion mutants, as well as of hybrid or chimeric

receptors (Dohlman et al. (1991)).

With the growing number of receptor sub-types, G-protein subunits, and effectors, characterization of ligand binding and G protein recognition properties of these receptors is an important area for investigation. It has long been known that multiple receptors can couple to a single G protein and, as in the case of epinephrine binding to eta_2 - and $lpha_2$ adrenergic receptors, a single ligand can bind to multiple 20 functionally distinct receptor sub-types. Moreover, G proteins with similar receptor and effector specificities have also been identified. For example, three species of human G, have been cloned (Itoh et al. (1988)), and alternate mRNA splicing has been shown to result in 25 multiple variants of G. (Kozasa et al. (1988)). Cloning and the muscarinic and α_2 -adrenergic production of receptors led to the demonstration that a single receptor sub-type, when expressed at high levels in the cell, will couple to more than one type of G protein. 30

Opioid receptors are known to be sensitive to reducing agents, and the occurrence of a disulfide bridge has been postulated as essential for ligand binding (Gioannini, et





al. (1989)). For rhodopsin, muscarinic, and ß-adrenergic receptors, two conserved cysteine residues in each of the two first extracellular loops have been shown critical for stabilizing the functional protein structure and are to đo so by forming a disulfide Structure/function studies of opioid ligands have shown the importance of a protonated amine group for binding to the receptor with high affinity. The binding site of the receptor might, therefore, possess a critical negatively 10 charged counterpart. Catecholamine receptors display in their sequence a conserved aspartate residue that has been shown necessary for binding the positively charged amine group of their ligands.

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15 Given the complexity and apparent degeneracy of function of various opioid receptors, a question of fundamental importance is how, and under what circumstances do specific and sub-sub-type receptors exert physiological effect in the presence of the appropriate stimulatory ligand. A traditional approach to answering 20 this question has been to reconstitute the purified receptor and G protein components in vitro. Unfortunately, purification schemes have been successful for only a very limited number of receptor sub-types and their cognate G-25 proteins. Alternatively, heterologous expression systems can be of more general usefulness in the characterization of cloned receptors and in elucidating receptor G protein coupling specificity (Marullo et al. (1988); Payette et al. (1990); King et al. (1990)).

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One such system was recently developed in yeast cells, in which the genes for a mammalian β_2 -adrenergic receptor and G, α -subunit were coexpressed (King et al. 1990). Expression of the β_2 -adrenergic receptor to levels several



hundred-fold higher than in any human tissue was attained, and ligand binding was shown to be of the appropriate affinity, specificity, and stereoselectivity. Moreover, a β_2 -adrenergic receptor-mediated activation of the pheromone 5 signal transduction pathway was demonstrated by several of including imposition growth criteria, and induction of a pheromonemorphological changes, responsive promoter (FUS1) fused to the Escherichia coli lacz gene (encoding β -galactosidase) (King et al. 1990).

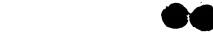
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Finally, expression of a single receptor in the absence of other related sub-types is often impossible to achieve, even in isolated, non-recombinant mammalian cells. Thus, there has been considerable difficulty in applying the standard approaches of classical genetics or even the powerful techniques of molecular biology to the study of opioid In particular, means are needed for the receptors. identification of the DNA sequences encoding individual receptors. Given such isolated, is possible to address the heretofore sequences, it intractable problems associated with design and testing of isoform-specific opioid receptor agonists and antagonists. The availability of cDNAs encoding the opioid receptors will permit detailed studies of signal-transduction mechanisms and reveal the anatomical distribution of the mRNAs of these receptors, providing information on their expression pattern in the nervous system. This information should ultimately allow better understanding of the opioid system analgesia, and also the design of more specific therapeutic drugs. 30

Availability of polynucleotide sequences encoding opioid receptors, and the polypeptide sequences of the encoded receptors, will significantly increase the capability to



design pharmaceutical compositions, such as analgesics, with enhanced specificity of function. In general, availability of these polypeptide sequences will enable efficient screening of candidate compositions. 5 principle in operation through the screening process is straightforward: natural agonists and antagonists bind to cell-surface receptors and channels to produce physiological effects; certain other molecules bind to receptors and channels; therefore, certain other molecules may produce physiological effects and act as therapeutic pharmaceutical agents. Thus, the ability of candidate drugs to bind to opioid receptors can function as an extremely effective screening criterion for the selection of pharmaceutical compositions with a desired functional efficacy.

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Prior methods for screening candidate drug compositions based on their ability to preferentially bind to cellsurface receptors has been limited to tissue-based techniques. In these techniques, animal tissues rich in the 20 receptor type of interest are extracted and prepared; candidate drugs are then allowed to interact with the prepared tissue and those found to bind to the receptors are selected for further study. However, these tissue-based screening techniques suffer from several significant 25 disadvantages. First, they are expensive because the source of receptor cell tissue--laboratory animals--is expensive. Second, extensive technical input is required to operate the screens. And, third, the screens may confuse the results because there are no tissues where only one receptor subtype is expressed exclusively. With traditional prior art screens, the wrong interactions are observed or, at best, the proper interactions are observed together with unwanted interactions.



The nucleic acid molecules, proteins and methods of the subject invention overcome the difficulties discussed supra in connection with kappa, opioid receptors.





Summary of the Invention

The subject invention provides recombinant nucleic acid molecule which encodes a kappa₃ opioid receptor.

The subject invention further provides an anti-sense oligonucleotide molecule capable of specifically hybridizing to an mRNA molecule encoding kappa₃ opioid receptor, at the portion thereof encoding kappa₃ opioid receptor, so as to prevent translation of the mRNA molecule.

The subject invention further provides a nucleic acid molecule encoding the anti-sense oligonucleotide molecule of the subject invention, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is capable of being expressed in a suitable host cell.

The subject invention further provides a vector comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention.

The subject invention further provides a host vector system for the production of a kappa, opioid receptor which comprises the vector of the subject invention in a suitable 25 host cell.

The subject invention further provides a method for producing a kappa₃ opioid receptor which comprises growing the host vector system of the subject invention under conditions permitting the production of the kappa₃ opioid receptor, and recovering the kappa₃ opioid receptor produced thereby.

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The subject invention further provides the nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable marker.

5 The subject invention further provides a method detecting the presence of kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the labeled nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention under conditions permitting the labeled nucleic acid molecule to form a complex with kappa3 10 opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample, and detecting the presence of such complex formed so as to thereby detect the presence of kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample. 15

subject invention further provides a method for quantitatively determining the amount of kappa3 opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with a suitable amount of the labeled nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention under conditions permitting the labeled nucleic acid molecule to form a complex with kappa3 opioid receptorencoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample, 25 quantitatively determining the amount of complex so formed so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample.

30 The subject invention further provides a purified native kappa, opioid receptor.



The subject invention further provides the variant kappa; opioid receptor encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention.

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5 The subject invention further provides a method for obtaining partially purified polyclonal antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa; opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto which method comprises (a) immunizing a subject with the kappa; opioid receptor encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention, (b) recovering from the immunized subject serum comprising antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa; opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, and (c) partially purifying the antibodies present in the serum, thereby obtaining partially purified polyclonal antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa; opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto.

20 The subject invention further provides the partially purified antibodies produced by the method of the subject invention.

The subject invention further provides a method for obtaining a purified monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto which method comprises (a) immunizing a subject with the kappa, opioid receptor encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention, (b) recovering from the immunized subject a B cell-containing cell sample, (c) contacting the B cell-containing cell sample so recovered with myeloma cells under conditions permitting fusion of the myeloma cells with the B cells therein so as to form hybridoma cells, (d) isolating



from the resulting sample a hybridoma cell capable of producing a monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, (e) growing the hybridoma cell so isolated under conditions permitting the production of the monoclonal antibody, and (f) recovering the monoclonal antibody so produced, thereby obtaining a purified monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto.

The subject invention further provides the hybridoma cell produced in step (d) of the subject invention.

15 The subject invention further provides the purified monoclonal antibody produced by the method of the subject invention.

The subject invention further provides an antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, said antibody being labeled with a detectable marker.

The subject invention further provides a method for detecting the presence of kappa₃ opioid receptor in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of the subject invention under conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa₃ opioid receptor present in the sample, and detecting the presence of complex so formed, so as to thereby detect the presence of kappa₃ opioid receptor in the sample.

The subject invention further provides a method for quantitatively determining the amount of kappa, opioid





receptor in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of the subject invention under conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa₃ opioid receptor present in the sample, quantitatively determining the amount of complex so formed, and comparing the amount so determined with a known standard, so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor in the sample.

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The subject invention further provides a composition which comprises the antibody of the subject invention in an amount effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in a subject, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The subject invention further provides a method for imaging cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in a

- subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of the composition of the subject invention effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject under conditions permitting the antibody of the composition to specifically bind to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject, and imaging the antibody specifically bound to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject after a suitable period of time, so as to thereby image cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject.
- 30 The subject invention further provides a composition which comprises the antibody of the subject invention in an amount effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor present in a subject, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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The subject invention further provides a method quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of the composition of 5 the subject invention effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor present in the subject under conditions permitting the antibody of the composition to specifically bind to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor in the subject, determining the amount of antibody quantitatively 10 specifically bound to cell membrane-associated kappa; opioid receptors present in the subject, and comparing the amount so determined with a known standard so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject. 15

The subject invention further provides a method for determining a subject's potential sensitivity to a kappa, opioid receptor-specific agent which comprises quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject by the method of the subject invention, and comparing the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor so determined with the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in a subject having a known sensitivity to the agent, so as to thereby determine the subject's potential sensitivity to the kappa, opioid receptor-specific agent.

The subject invention further provides a method for determining the affinity of an agent for kappa; opioid receptor which comprises (a) contacting a predetermined amount of kappa; opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the agent together with (ii) a predetermined amount of a detectable known ligand of kappa; opioid



receptor, said known ligand being a known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor with a known affinity therefore, under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between kappa, opioid receptor and the detectable known ligand in the absence of the agent, (b) quantitatively determining the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex so formed, (c) comparing the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex determined in step (b) with the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex formed in the absence of the agent, and (d) determining the affinity of the agent for kappa, opioid receptor based on the comparison in step (c).

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subject invention further provides a method 15 determining the affinity of an agent for kappa, opioid receptor which comprises (a) contacting kappa3 opioid receptor with the agent under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between kappa, opioid receptor and a known ligand thereof, (b) contacting a predetermined amount of the agent-receptor complex with a predetermined amount of the antibody of the subject invention under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between kappa, opioid receptor and the antibody in the absence of the agent, (c) quantitatively determining the 25 amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor-antibody complex so formed, and (d) determining the affinity of the agent for kappa3 opioid receptor based on the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-antibody complex determined in step (c).

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The subject invention further provides a method for determining whether a known ligand of kappa₃ opioid receptor is an agonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa₃ opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of

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the ligand and (ii) a predetermined amount of GTP or analog thereof under conditions which would permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage so determined with the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, a lower percentage in the presence of GTP or analog thereof relative to the percentage in the absence of GTP or analog thereof indicating that the ligand is an agonist of kappa, opioid receptor.

Finally, the subject invention provides a method for determining whether a ligand of kappa3 opioid receptor is an 15 antagonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa; opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the ligand and (ii) a predetermined amount of GTP or analog thereof under conditions which would permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of 20 GTP or analog thereof, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa₃ opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage so determined with the percentage of such predetermined 25 amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, an equality between the percentage in the presence of GTP or analog thereof and the percentage in the absence of GTP or analog thereof indicating that the ligand is an antagonist of kappa, opioid 30 receptor.





Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1

5 Nucleic acid sequence of mouse kappa₃ opioid receptor cDNA and predicted amino acid sequence thereof.

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Figure 2

Effect of antisense treatment on kappa; analgesic activity.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

The plasmid 13-2A4 was deposited pursuant to, and in satisfaction of, the requirements of the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20852 under ATCC Accession No._

10 75608 The plasmid 13-2A4 was deposited with the ATCC on November 5, 1993.

Specifically, the subject invention provides recombinant nucleic acid molecule which encodes a kappa₃ opioid 15 receptor.

As used herein, a recombinant nucleic acid molecule is a nucleic acid molecule which does not occur as an individual molecule in nature and which is obtained through the use of recombinant technology.

The designation "kappa $_3$ opioid receptor" includes all opioid receptors which display the pharmacological behavior attributed to kappa $_3$ opioid receptors in the art.

In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule. The DNA molecule may be a cDNA molecule. In another embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA molecule. The RNA molecule may be an mRNA molecule.

In one embodiment, the kappa₃ opioid receptor is native kappa₃ opioid receptor. Native kappa₃ opioid receptor means a full length, naturally occurring membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor protein.



In another embodiment, the kappa, opioid receptor is a variant kappa, opioid receptor. As used herein, variant kappa, opioid receptor means a protein comprising a portion of kappa, opioid receptor, which protein portion is capable of (a) specifically binding to a kappa, opioid receptor-specific ligand, and (b) competing with kappa, opioid receptor for binding to a kappa, opioid receptor-specific ligand. A variant kappa, opioid receptor may comprise, by way of example, a fragment of kappa, opioid receptor, a point mutant of kappa, opioid receptor, or a point and deletion mutant of kappa, opioid receptor. The variant kappa, opioid receptor may be an aqueous-soluble variant kappa, opioid receptor, and may either be glycosylated or non-glycosylated.

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The kappa₃ opioid receptor may be a mammalian kappa₃ opioid receptor. In one embodiment, the mammalian kappa₃ opioid receptor is a murine kappa₃ opioid receptor. The murine kappa₃ opioid receptor may be the murine kappa₃ opioid receptor having the sequence shown in Figure 1. In another embodiment, the mammalian kappa₃ opioid receptor is a human kappa₃ opioid receptor.

The subject invention further provides an anti-sense oligonucleotide molecule capable of specifically hybridizing to an mRNA molecule encoding kappa₃ opioid receptor, at the portion thereof encoding kappa₃ opioid receptor, so as to prevent translation of the mRNA molecule. Such anti-sense oligonucleotide molecules are discussed in more detail infra.

As used herein, "capable of specifically hybridizing" means capable of binding to an mRNA molecule encoding kappa₃



opioid receptor but not capable of binding to an mRNA molecule encoding a non-kappa, opioid receptor protein.

The subject invention further provides a nucleic acid molecule encoding the anti-sense oligonucleotide molecule of the subject invention, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is capable of being expressed in a suitable host cell. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecule encoding the antisense oligonucleotide molecule is a DNA molecule.

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The subject invention further provides a vector comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention.

In accordance with the invention, numerous vector systems for expression of kappa₃ opioid receptor may be employed. For example, one class of vectors utilizes DNA elements which are derived from animal viruses such as bovine papilloma virus, polyoma virus, adenovirus, vaccinia virus,

20 baculovirus, retroviruses (RSV, MMTV or MoMLV), Semliki Forest virus or SV40 virus. Additionally, cells which have stably integrated the DNA into their chromosomes may be selected by introducing one or more markers which allow for the selection of transfected host cells. The marker may

provide, for example, prototropy to an auxotrophic host, biocide resistance, (e.g., antibiotics) or resistance to heavy metals such as copper or the like. The selectable marker gene can be either directly linked to the DNA sequences to be expressed, or introduced into the same cell

by cotransformation. Additional elements may also be needed for optimal synthesis of mRNA. These elements may include splice signals, as well as transcriptional promoters, enhancers, and termination signals.



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In one embodiment, the vector is a plasmid. The plasmid may be the plasmid designated 13-2A4 (ATCC Accession No.75608).

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The subject invention further provides a host vector system for the production of a kappa₃ opioid receptor which comprises the vector of the subject invention in a suitable host cell. Methods of making host vector systems are well known to those skilled in the art.

10 The suitable host cell may be a bacterial cell. In one embodiment, the bacterial cell is an E. coli cell.

The suitable host cell may also be an eucaryotic cell. In one embodiment, the eucaryotic cell is a mammalian cell. In the preferred embodiment, the mammalian cell is a COS cell. The COS cell may be a COS-7 cell.

The subject invention further provides a method for producing a kappa₃ opioid receptor which comprises growing the host vector system of the subject invention under conditions permitting the production of the kappa₃ opioid receptor, and recovering the kappa₃ opioid receptor produced thereby.

Methods and conditions for growing host vector systems and for recovering the kappa; opioid receptor so produced are well known to those skilled in the art, and may be varied or optimized depending upon the specific vector and host cell employed. Such recovery methods include, by way of example, gel electrophoresis, ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography or combinations thereof.

The subject invention further provides the nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention, wherein the nucleic acid

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molecule is labeled with a detectable marker. In one embodiment, the labeled nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention need not encode a functional receptor, but need only possess sufficient homology to a functional kappa₃ opioid receptor sequence to permit hybridization thereto.

The subject invention further provides a method for detecting the presence of kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the labeled nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention under conditions permitting the labeled nucleic acid molecule to form a complex with kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample, and detecting the presence of such complex formed so as to thereby detect the presence of kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample.

The nucleic acid molecules detected may be DNA or RNA 20 molecules. In one embodiment, the nucleic acid molecules detected are mRNA molecules.

The sample may be, for example, a solution comprising nucleic acid molecules, or an immobilized sample of nucleic acid molecules.

Conditions permitting the labeled nucleic acid molecule to form a complex with kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample, as well as methods for detecting the presence of such complex formed, are well known in the art.

The subject invention further provides a method for quantitatively determining the amount of kappa₃ opioid

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receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with a suitable amount of the labeled nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention under conditions permitting the labeled nucleic 5 acid molecule to form a complex with kappa3 opioid receptorencoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample, quantitatively determining the amount of complex so formed so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample.

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The amount of kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample need not be an absolute number, in the sense that it need not be the actual number of nucleic acid molecules in the sample. Rather, the amount may merely correlate with this number.

The subject invention further provides a purified native kappa3 opioid receptor. As used herein, "purified" means free of any other opioid receptors. For example, the 20 purified kappa₃ opioid receptor may include membrane fragments, other non-kappa3 opioid receptor proteins, and a suitable buffer. Alternatively, the purified kappa, opioid receptor may include only the receptor, or receptor bound by a membrane, and a suitable buffer. 25

The subject invention further provides the variant kappa3 opioid receptor encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention. In one embodiment, the 30 variant kappa, opioid receptor is a purified variant kappa, opioid receptor.

further provides method subject invention a obtaining partially purified polyclonal antibodies capable



of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto which method comprises (a) immunizing a subject with the kappa, opioid receptor encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention, (b) recovering from the immunized subject serum comprising antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, and (c) partially purifying the antibodies present in the serum, thereby obtaining partially purified polyclonal antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto.

As used herein, partially purified antibodies means a composition which comprises antibodies which specifically bind to kappa₃ opioid receptor, and consists of fewer protein impurities than does the serum from which the antibodies are derived. A protein impurity means a protein other than the antibodies specific for kappa₃ opioid receptor. For example, the partially purified antibodies might be an IgG preparation.

Methods of recovering serum from a subject are well known to those skilled in the art. Methods of partially purifying antibodies are also well known to those skilled in the art, and include, by way of example, filtration, ion exchange chromatography, and precipitation.

As used herein, "capable of specifically binding to kappa; opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto" means binding either directly to an opioid-binding site or to a non-opioid-binding site resulting in inhibition of opioid binding to the receptor.

The subject invention further provides the partially purified antibodies produced by the method of the subject invention.

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5 The subject invention further provides a method for obtaining a purified monoclonal antibody capable specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto which method comprises immunizing a subject with the kappa₃ opioid receptor encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of the subject invention, (b) recovering from the immunized subject a B cell-containing cell sample, (c) contacting the B cellcontaining cell sample so recovered with myeloma cells under conditions permitting fusion of the myeloma cells with the B cells therein so as to form hybridoma cells, (d) isolating from the resulting sample a hybridoma cell capable of producing a monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, (e) growing the hybridoma cell so isolated under conditions permitting the production of the 20 monoclonal antibody, and (f) recovering the monoclonal antibody so produced, thereby obtaining a purified monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto. 25

Methods of making hybridomas and monoclonal antibodies are well known to those skilled in the art.

30 The subject invention further provides the hybridoma cell produced in step (d) of the subject invention.





The subject invention further provides the purified monoclonal antibody produced by the method of the subject invention.

5 As used herein, a "purified monoclonal antibody" means the monoclonal antibody free of any other antibodies.

The subject invention further provides an antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa₃ opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, said antibody being labeled with a detectable marker.

The labeled antibody may be a polyclonal or monoclonal antibody. In one embodiment, the labeled antibody is a purified labeled antibody. The term "antibody" includes, by way of example, both naturally occurring and non-naturally occurring antibodies. Specifically, the term "antibody" includes polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies, and fragments thereof. Furthermore, the term "antibody" includes chimeric antibodies and wholly synthetic antibodies, and fragments thereof. The detectable marker may be, for example, radioactive or fluorescent. Methods of labeling antibodies are well known in the art.

The subject invention further provides a method for detecting the presence of kappa, opioid receptor in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of the subject invention under conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa, opioid receptor present in the sample, and detecting the presence of complex so formed, so as to thereby detect the presence of kappa, opioid receptor in the sample.

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The sample may be, for example, a cell sample, tissue sample, or protein-containing fluid sample. Conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa; opioid receptor and methods of detecting the presence of complex so formed are well known in the art.

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The subject invention further provides a method for quantitatively determining the amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of the subject invention under conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa₃ opioid receptor present in the sample, quantitatively determining the amount of complex so formed, and comparing the amount so determined with a known standard, so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor in the sample.

The subject invention further provides a composition which comprises the antibody of the subject invention in an amount effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in a subject, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The amount effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound 25 kappa₃ opioid receptor present in a subject may be calculated using methods well known in the art.

Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are well known to those skilled in the art and include, but are not limited to, 0.01-0.1M and preferably 0.05M phosphate buffer or 0.8% Additionally, such pharmaceutically acceptable saline. aqueous or non-aqueous be carriers may suspensions, and emulsions. Examples of non-aqueous propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, solvents are



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vegetable oils such as olive oil, and injectable organic esters such as ethyl oleate. Aqueous carriers include emulsions alcoholic/aqueous solutions, saline and buffered media. including suspensions, sodium chloride solution, 5 Parenteral vehicles include Ringer's dextrose, dextrose and sodium chloride, lactated Ringer's or fixed oils. Intravenous vehicles include fluid and nutrient replenishers, electrolyte replenishers such as those based on Ringer's dextrose, and the like. tives and other additives may also be present, such as, for 10 example, antimicrobials, antioxidants, chelating agents, inert gases and the like.

The subject invention further provides a method for imaging cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor present in a 15 subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of the composition of the subject invention effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound kappa3 opioid receptor present in the subject under conditions permitting the antibody of the composition to specifically bind to cell 20 membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor present subject, and imaging the antibody specifically bound to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject after a suitable period of time, so as to thereby image cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the 25 subject.

In one embodiment, the subject is a mouse. In another embodiment, the subject is a human.

As used herein, "imaging" means determining the physical location of cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor present in the subject. General methods of imaging cell membrane-bound proteins using antibody-based probes are well





known to those skilled in the art. The signal detected in the imaging method of the subject invention consists of signal from labeled antibody bound to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor. The amount of antibody may be saturating or non-saturating. As used herein, "saturating" means that the number of receptor binding-sites on the antibodies exceeds the number of antibody-binding sites on the receptors.

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Imaging the antibody specifically bound to cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor is accomplished according to methods well known to those skilled in the art. Such methods include, by way of example, using a gamma camera to measure the signal emitted by the antibody bound to receptor present in a subject. The imaging methods and quantitative methods of the subject invention can be combined, and means of doing so are well known in the art.

As used herein, a "suitable period of time" means a period of time after which substantially all of the non-specifically bound antibody has be excreted from the subject, but by which a detectable amount of antibody remains bound to the receptor present in the subject.

The subject invention further provides a composition which comprises the antibody of the subject invention in an amount effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in a subject, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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The amount effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor can be determined according to methods well known in the art.



subject invention further provides a method quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of the composition of 5 the subject invention effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa3 opioid receptor present in the subject under conditions permitting the antibody of the composition to specifically bind to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor in of antibody amount quantitatively determining the specifically bound to cell membrane-associated kappa, opioid receptors present in the subject, and comparing the amount so determined with a known standard so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject.

The amount of the composition effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of receptor, conditions permitting the antibody to specifically bind to 20 kappa; opioid receptor, and methods of quantitatively determining the amount of antibody specifically bound to the receptors are well known in the art.

The amount of cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor need not be an absolute number, in the sense that it need not be the actual number of receptors in the subject.

Rather, the amount may merely correlate with this number.

The methods of the subject invention for imaging and quantitatively determining the amount of receptor in an entire subject may be analogously applied to individual organs in the subject.

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subject invention further provides a method for determining a subject's potential sensitivity to a kappa, receptor-specific which agent quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound 5 kappa₃ opioid receptor present in the subject by the method of the subject invention, and comparing the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor so determined with the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in a subject having a known sensitivity to the agent, so as to thereby determine the subject's potential sensitivity to the kappa, opioid receptor-specific agent.

As used herein, a subject's potential sensitivity to a kappa, opioid receptor-specific agent is the degree to which the agent is capable of eliciting a kappa, opioid receptor-15 mediated physiological response in the subject.

As used herein, the term "agent" includes both protein and non-protein moieties. For example, the agent may be an 20 antibody directed against a portion of kappa, opioid receptor, or a kappa₃ opioid or analog thereof.

In one embodiment, the kappa, opioid receptor-specific agent is a kappa, opioid receptor-specific analgesic agent.

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subject invention further provides a method determining the affinity of an agent for kappa, opioid receptor which comprises (a) contacting a predetermined amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the agent together with (ii) a predetermined amount of a detectable known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor, said known ligand being a known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor with a known affinity therefore, under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex

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between kappa₃ opioid receptor and the detectable known ligand in the absence of the agent, (b) quantitatively determining the amount of kappa; opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex so formed, (c) comparing the amount of 5 kappa, opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex determined in step (b) with the amount of kappa3 opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex formed in the absence of the agent, and (d) determining the affinity of the agent for kappa; opioid receptor based on the comparison in step (c). 10

The detectable known ligand of kappa3 opioid receptor may be, for example, radiolabeled, fluorescently labeled or enzymatically labeled.

15 Conditions permitting the formation of a complex, and methods for quantitatively determining the amount receptor-ligand complex are well known in the art. Methods of determining the affinity of the agent for kappa, opioid receptor based on the comparison in step (c) are also well 20

known in the art.

subject invention further provides a method determining the affinity of an agent for kappa; opioid receptor which comprises (a) contacting kappa; opioid receptor with the agent under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between kappa₃ opioid receptor and a known ligand thereof, (b) contacting a predetermined amount of the agent-receptor complex with a predetermined 30 amount of the antibody of the subject invention under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between kappa; opioid receptor and the antibody in the absence of the agent, (c) quantitatively determining the amount of kappa₃ opioid receptor-antibody complex so formed,

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and (d) determining the affinity of the agent for kappa; opioid receptor based on the amount of kappa; opioid receptor-antibody complex determined in step (c).

The subject invention further provides a method determining whether a known ligand of kappa3 opioid receptor is an agonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa, opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the ligand and (ii) a predetermined amount of GTP or analog 10 thereof under conditions which would permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa₃ opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage so determined with the percentage of such predetermined 15 amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, a lower percentage in the presence of GTP or analog thereof relative to the percentage in the absence of GTP or analog thereof indicating that the 20 ligand is an agonist of kappa, opioid receptor.

The conditions, and methods of comparing, in this method are well known in the art. GTP analogs include, by way of example, $Gpp(NH_2)p$ and gamma-S-GTP.

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The subject invention further provides a method for determining whether a known ligand of kappa₃ opioid receptor is an agonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa₃ opioid receptor with a predetermined amount of the ligand under conditions which permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa₃ opioid receptor, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa₃ opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage to a known standard so as to

thereby determine whether the known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor is an agonist thereof.

subject invention further provides a method for determining whether a ligand of kappa3 opioid receptor is an 5 antagonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa3 opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the ligand and (ii) a predetermined amount of GTP or analog thereof under conditions which would permit the binding of 10 the ligand to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage so determined with the percentage of such predetermined 15 amount of ligand bound to the kappa₃ opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, an equality between the percentage in the presence of GTP or analog thereof and the percentage in the absence of GTP or analog thereof indicating that the ligand is an antagonist of kappa, opioid receptor. 20

The subject invention further provides a method for determining whether a known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor is an antagonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa, opioid receptor with a predetermined amount of the ligand under conditions which permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa, opioid receptor, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage to a known standard so as to thereby determine whether the known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor is an antagonist thereof.

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Finally, the subject invention provides kits for practicing the methods of the subject invention.

In order to facilitate an understanding of the Experimental Details section which follows, certain frequently occurring methods and/or terms are best described in Sambrook, et al. (1989).

This invention will be better understood by reference to the Experimental Details which follow, but those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the specific experiments detailed are only illustrative of the invention as described more fully in the claims which follow thereafter.



Experimental Details

I - Introduction

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Opiate receptors mediate the actions of the opiates and opioid peptides. For many years, it has been known that a variety of opioid receptor subtypes exist. The first class of opiate receptors identified were termed mu and were based 10 upon the selectivity of drugs such as morphine. classification was soon followed by additional binding sites called delta receptors, based upon enkephalin binding, and then kappa receptors, which are thought to mediate the actions of dynorphins. Recently multiple subtypes of kappa receptors have been proposed (see, e.g., Pasternak, Clin. Neuropharmacol., 1993, for review and references). kappa, receptor was initially defined in binding studies using drugs such as U50,488H and nor-binaltorphimine The kappa, receptor differs from the kappa, (norBNI). 20 receptor in terms of the binding selectivity. Another kappa receptor subtype was identified which subtype is unique. Like the kappa, receptor, the kappa, receptors (Clark, et al. (1989), Price, et al. (1988), Gistrak, et al. (1989), and Paul, et al. (1989)) do not bind U50,488H or 25 binaltorphimine very well. The overall binding selectivity of kappa; is quite different from that of the kappa; receptor as well as that of any other published receptor class. In addition to the unique binding profile, the kappa, receptors have a novel and distinctive pharmacology. Using a novel 30 ligand, naloxone benzoylhydrazone (NalBzoH), the ability of kappa; receptors to elicit analgesia was confirmed. kappa, analgesia does not appear to be associated with respiratory depression or significant constipation. In this regard, the kappa; analgesia is quite distinct from the

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actions of morphine. Furthermore, antagonists which selectively block morphine (mu), delta and kappa, analagesia have little effect on kappa; analgesia. This observation is consistent with a unique site of action. Finally, the 5 continued administration of an opiate drug produces tolerance, i.e., a diminishing response to a repeated fixed dose of drug. Tolerance is seen with virtually all the opioid receptor classes. However, there is no crosstolerance between kappa, receptors and the receptors of the other classes. This absence of cross-tolerance implies that 10 the mechanisms of both analgesia and tolerance associated with the kappa₃ receptor are distinct from the mechanisms of and kappa₁ receptors. delta Based upon these observations, kappa, receptors represent a novel and unique class of opioid receptor. However, validation of this concept requires the isolation and structural determination of the receptor, a membrane-bound protein. Described herein is the isolation of a cDNA clone encoding for a novel protein which appears to be the kappa, receptor.

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II - Cloning and Sequencing Strategy for Kappa, Opioid Receptor

Two degenerate oligonucleotides were designed to encode the predicted peptide sequences of the mouse δ receptor at peptide position 137-144 (sense orientation) and 312-319 (anti-sense orientation), which are highly conserved among the G protein-coupled receptor family. The oligonucleotides were used in PCR reactions to amplify mouse kappa, opioid receptor cDNA from a mouse brain lambda ZAP cDNA library (Stratagene). The PCR amplification resulted in the production of an approximately 500bp fragment which was subcloned into the Bluescript SK(-) at the EcoRV site. The DNA sequences of the fragment were determined. The



nucleotide and predicted peptide sequences of the PCR fragment were highly homologous with those of the mouse $\boldsymbol{\delta}$ receptor.

The PCR fragment was radiolabeled with α [32P]dCTP and used as a probe to screen the same mouse brain lambda ZAP cDNA library by hybridization. Approximately 2.8 \times 10 6 plaques were probed at high stringency. Eighteen clones were isolated from this screening. The Bluescript SK(-) plasmids containing inserts were then excised from these clones with 10 super-infection of VCSM 13 helper bacteriophage and sizes were verified. One of the longest clones (13-2A4) contains an insert of approximately 2.6 kb. The entire clone was The protein sequence is predicted to begin at sequenced. the first ATG at nucleotide number 96 in the sequence, 15 preceded by two termination codons upstream at positions 7 and 72.

The amino acid sequence predicted from the cDNA encodes a protein containing 367 residues with a calculated molecular weight of 41,047 daltons, and reveals seven hydrophobic domains.

Comparison of the protein sequence with published structures

from the opioid receptor family indicates an overall
identity with MOR-1, KOR-1 and DOR-1 predicted protein
sequences of 50.1%, 48% and 46%, respectively. However,
these homology values are somewhat misleading. Portions of
the molecule, especially the N- and C-termini, are
relatively unique, sharing little homology with the other
cloned receptors. However, some of the transmembrane
regions show a very close homology, with stretches of
identity exceeding 20 amino acid residues in length at
points.

III - Expression of Kappa, Opioid Receptor

The kappa₃ opioid receptor clone was expressed in COS-7 cells (Table 1).

Table 1

10 Expression of opioid binding in COS-7 cells with kappa, opioid receptor

3H-Diprenorphine Binding (cpm)

 $pSR\alpha$ 789 ± 79

Control 157 \pm 20

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The XhoI/BamHI fragment of the clone was subcloned into a $pSR\alpha$ expression vector at the XhoI/BamHI sites. COS-7 cells 25 were transfected with 30 μg of plasmid DNA/150mm plate using DEAE-dextran. The transfected cells were grown at 37°C for 72 hours and the membranes were harvested for binding Control binding was determined using COS-7 cells 30 which were treated with DEAE-dextran and incubated under the same conditions as the transfected cells. ³H-Diprenorphine binding was determined in samples with 0.5 mg protein/tube. All binding assayed was in triplicate, except nonspecific binding in the pSRa which was assayed in 35 duplicate. Only specific opioid binding (i.e., total minus nonspecific) is presented. Results are the means ± s.e.m. The pSR α results are significantly different from the control COS-7 cells (p<0.001) as determined by the t-Test.



The XhoI/BamHI fragment of the clone was obtained and subcloned into a pSR α expression vector at the XhoI/BamHI sites and then transfected the COS-7 cells, which were assayed for opioid binding after 72 hours. To control for the treatments, the binding in COS-7 cells was also examined, which cells were exposed to DEAE-dextran and incubated under the same conditions as the transfected cells. Additional studies using pCMV vectors and the same transfection techniques reveal binding values virtually identical to those seen in this control (data not shown). 10 Opioid binding was determined with the antagonist 3H-Binding is performed in the absence of a diprenorphine. high concentration of active opioid (levallorphan) and specific binding defined as the difference in binding (i.e., the binding sensitive to the active opioid). 15 diprenorphine binding was observed following transfection with the clone which is significantly different from the control binding.

20 IV - Association of Kappa₃ Opioid Receptor in Kappa₃ Analgesia

To determine the pharmacological relevance of the clone, an antisense oligodeoxynucleotide was designed and injected 25 intracerebroventricularly in mice as described in section V, Controls consisted of saline vehicle, infra. oligodeoxynucleotide complimentary sense against antisense oligodeoxynucleotide and a mismatch antisense oligodeoxynucleotide in which were switched two base pairs 30 from the antisense sequence. As shown in Figure 2, the antisense treatment markedly lowered the analgesic response to NalBzoH (p<0.002) without interfering with the response to morphine. The selectivity of the response was confirmed

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by the lack of activity of the sense strand or the mismatched antisense probe.

V - Effect of antisense treatment on kappa, analgesic activity

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Groups of mice received intracerebroventricular injections 5 μ g of either 1) anti-sense to the kappa, clone (5'-GGGCTGTGCAGAAGCGCAGA-3') (n=29 in the morphine group and n=29 in the NalBzoH group); 2) the complementary sense strand to this oligodeoxynucleotide (5'-CCCGACACGTCTTCGC-GTCT-3') (n=29 in the morphine group and n=29 in the NalBzoH group); or a mismatch antisense or saline on days 1, 3 and On day 6, animals were tested for analgesia to either morphine (1 μ g) or NalBzoH (15 μ g). An additional group was 15 treated identically with a mismatched antisense in which two base pairs had been switched (5'-GGGTCGTGCAGAGACGCAGA-3') (n=29) and tested only with NalBzoH. Analgesia was assessed quantally using the tailflick assay. In brief, a mouse tail 20 is exposed to a hot beam of light and the duration of time the mouse permits the tail to remain in the beam of light is Typical latencies range between 2 to 3 seconds. Fifteen minutes after the injection of drug, the test is repeated. Analgesia is defined quantally as a doubling or greater of the tailflick latency compared to the baseline 25 determined for each individual mouse. Statistical significance is determined using the Fischer exact test. Morphine analgesia is unaffected by anti-sense treatment. NalBzoH analgesia is unaffected by the sense or the 30 mismatched antisense treatments, but is markedly reduced by the antisense treatment (p<0.002).



VI - Conclusion

A clone was isolated and sequenced which appears to correspond to the kappa, receptor initially proposed several years ago. The clone was expressed in COS-7 cells, as demonstrated by the appearance of opioid binding, indicating that the protein was synthesized. Finally, a highly specific antisense approach was utilized to demonstrate the involvement of the protein encoded by this clone in kappa, analgesia, but not that of morphine induced analgesia.

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What is claimed is:

- A recombinant nucleic acid molecule which encodes a
 kappa₃ opioid receptor.
 - The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a DNA molecule.
- 10 3. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, wherein the DNA molecule is a cDNA molecule.
 - 4. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is an RNA molecule.

- 5. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the kappa₃ opioid receptor is native kappa₃ opioid receptor.
- 20 6. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the kappa₃ opioid receptor is a variant kappa₃ opioid receptor.
- 7. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 6,
 25 wherein the variant kappa₃ opioid receptor is an aqueous-soluble variant kappa₃ opioid receptor.
- 8. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 1,
 wherein the kappa₃ opioid receptor is a mammalian kappa₃
 30 opioid receptor.
 - 9. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 8, wherein the mammalian kappa₃ opioid receptor is a murine kappa₃ opioid receptor.

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- 10. The recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 8, wherein the mammalian kappa₃ opioid receptor is a human kappa₃ opioid receptor.
- 5 11. An anti-sense oligonucleotide molecule capable of specifically hybridizing to an mRNA molecule encoding kappa; opioid receptor, at the portion thereof encoding kappa; opioid receptor, so as to prevent translation of the mRNA molecule.

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12. A nucleic acid molecule encoding the anti-sense oligonucleotide molecule of claim 11, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is capable of being expressed in a suitable host cell.

- 13. A vector comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 3.
- 14. The vector of claim 13, wherein the vector is a plasmid.
 - 15. The plasmid of claim 14, wherein the plasmid is designated 13-2A4 (ATCC Accession No. 75608).
- 25 16. A host vector system for the production of a kappa₃ opioid receptor which comprises the vector of claim 13 in a suitable host cell.
- 17. The host vector system of claim 16, wherein the suitable host cell is a bacterial cell.
 - 18. The host vector system of claim 17, wherein the bacterial cell is an <u>E. coli</u> cell.

19. The host vector system of claim 16, wherein the suitable host cell is an eucaryotic cell.

- 20. The host vector system of claim 19, wherein the eucaryotic cell is a mammalian cell.
 - 21. The host vector system of claim 20, wherein the mammalian cell is a COS cell.
- 10 22. The host vector system of claim 21, wherein the COS cell is a COS-7 cell.
- 23. A method for producing a kappa; opioid receptor which comprises growing the host vector system of claim 16 under conditions permitting the production of the kappa; opioid receptor, and recovering the kappa; opioid receptor produced thereby.
- 24. The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is labeled with a detectable marker.
- 25. A method for detecting the presence of kappa₃ opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the labeled nucleic acid molecule of claim 24 under conditions permitting the labeled nucleic acid molecule to form a complex with kappa₃ opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample, and detecting the presence of such complex formed so as to thereby detect the presence of kappa₃ opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample.

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- A method for quantitatively determining the amount of 26. kappa₃ opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with a suitable amount of the labeled nucleic acid molecule of claim 24 under conditions permitting the labeled nucleic acid molecule to form a complex with kappa, opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid in the sample, quantitatively molecules present determining the amount of complex so formed so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of kappa; opioid receptor-encoding nucleic acid molecules present in the sample.
 - 27. A purified native kappa; opioid receptor.
 - 28. The variant kappa₃ opioid receptor encoded by the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim 6.
- A method for obtaining partially purified polyclonal 29. antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa3 20 opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto which method comprises (a) immunizing a subject with the kappa, opioid receptor encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, (b) recovering from the immunized subject serum comprising antibodies 25 capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, and (c) partially purifying the antibodies present in the serum, thereby obtaining partially 30 purified polyclonal antibodies capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto.

30. The partially purified antibodies produced by the method of claim 29.

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A method for obtaining a purified monoclonal antibody 31. capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid 5 receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto which method comprises (a) immunizing a subject with the kappa, opioid receptor encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, (b) recovering from the immunized subject a B cell-containing cell sample, (c) 10 contacting the B cell-containing cell sample so cells recovered with myeloma under conditions permitting fusion of the myeloma cells with the B cells therein so as to form hybridoma cells, (d) isolating from the resulting sample a hybridoma cell capable of 15 producing a monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, (e) growing the hybridoma so isolated under conditions permitting the 20 production of the monoclonal antibody, and (f) recovering the monoclonal antibody so produced, thereby obtaining a purified monoclonal antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa, opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto.

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- 32. The hybridoma cell produced in step (d) of claim 31.
- 33. The purified monoclonal antibody produced by the method of claim 31.

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34. An antibody capable of specifically binding to kappa₃ opioid receptor and thereby competing with opioid binding thereto, said antibody being labeled with a detectable marker.

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35. A method for detecting the presence of kappa; opioid receptor in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of claim 34 under conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa; opioid receptor present in the sample, and detecting the presence of complex so formed, so as to thereby detect the presence of kappa; opioid receptor in the sample.

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- A method for quantitatively determining the amount of 10 36. kappa₃ opioid receptor in a sample which comprises contacting the sample with the antibody of claim 34 under conditions permitting the antibody to form a complex with kappa, opioid receptor present in the quantitatively determining sample, the amount 15 complex so formed, and comparing the amount so determined with a known standard, so as to thereby quantitatively determine the amount of kappa; opioid receptor in the sample.
- 37. A composition which comprises the antibody of claim 34 in an amount effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in a subject, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

A method for imaging cell membrane-bound kappa; opioid 38. present in a subject which comprises receptor subject an amount administering to the composition of claim 37 effective to permit imaging cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject under conditions permitting the antibody of the composition to specifically bind to cell membranebound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject, and imaging the antibody specifically bound to cell

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membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in the subject after a suitable period of time, so as to thereby image cell membrane-bound kappa₃ opioid receptor present in the subject.

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- 39. A composition which comprises the antibody of claim 34 in an amount effective to permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in a subject, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- A method for quantitatively determining the amount of 40. cell membrane-bound kappa3 opioid receptor present in a subject which comprises administering to the subject an amount of the composition of claim 39 effective to 15 permit quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject under conditions permitting the antibody of the composition to specifically bind to cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor in the subject, quantitatively 20 determining the amount of antibody specifically bound to cell membrane-associated kappa, opioid receptors present in the subject, and comparing the amount so determined with a known standard so as to thereby 25 quantitatively determine the amount of cell membranebound kappa3 opioid receptor present in the subject.
- 41. A method for determining a subject's potential sensitivity to a kappa, opioid receptor-specific agent which comprises quantitatively determining the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor present in the subject by the method of claim 40, and comparing the amount of cell membrane-bound kappa, opioid receptor so determined with the amount of cell

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membrane-bound kappa; opioid receptor present in a subject having a known sensitivity to the agent, so as to thereby determine the subject's potential sensitivity to the kappa; opioid receptor-specific agent.

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42. The method of claim 41, wherein the kappa₃ opioid receptor-specific agent is a kappa₃ opioid receptor-specific analysis agent.

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A method for determining the affinity of an agent for 43. kappa, opioid receptor which comprises (a) contacting a predetermined amount of kappa, opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the agent together with (ii) a predetermined amount of a detectable known 15 ligand of kappa, opioid receptor, said known ligand being a known ligand of kappa, opioid receptor with a known affinity therefore, under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between kappa, opioid receptor and the detectable known ligand in the absence 20 of the agent, (b) quantitatively determining the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-detectable known ligand complex so formed, (c) comparing the amount of kappa; receptor-detectable known ligand determined in step (b) with the amount of kappa, opioid 25 receptor-detectable known ligand complex formed in the absence of the agent, and (d) determining the affinity of the agent for kappa, opioid receptor based on the comparison in step (c).

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44. A method for determining the affinity of an agent for kappa₃ opioid receptor which comprises (a) contacting kappa₃ opioid receptor with the agent under conditions which would permit the formation of a complex between

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kappa₃ opioid receptor and a known ligand thereof, (b) contacting a predetermined amount of the agent-receptor complex with a predetermined amount of the antibody of claim 34 under conditions which would permit formation of a complex between kappa3 opioid receptor and the antibody in the absence of the agent, quantitatively determining the amount of kappa, opioid receptor-antibody complex so formed, and (d) determining the affinity of the agent for kappa3 opioid receptor based on the amount of kappa, opioid receptorantibody complex determined in step (c).

- 45. A method for determining whether a known liqand of kappa₃ opioid receptor is an agonist thereof which 15 comprises (a) contacting the kappa, opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the ligand and (ii) a predetermined amount of GTP or analog thereof under conditions which would permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa3 opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, (b) quantitatively determining the 20 percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa₃ opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage so determined with the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, 25 opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, a lower percentage in the presence of GTP or analog thereof relative to the percentage in the absence of GTP or analog thereof indicating that the ligand is an agonist of kappa, opioid receptor.
 - 46. A method for determining whether a ligand of kappa₃ opioid receptor is an antagonist thereof which comprises (a) contacting the kappa₃ opioid receptor with (i) a predetermined amount of the ligand and (ii)

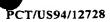
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a predetermined amount of GTP or analog thereof under conditions which would permit the binding of the ligand to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, (b) quantitatively determining the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor, and (c) comparing the percentage so determined with the percentage of such predetermined amount of ligand bound to the kappa, opioid receptor in the absence of GTP or analog thereof, an equality between the percentage in the presence of GTP or analog thereof and the percentage in the absence of GTP or analog thereof indicating that the ligand is an antagonist of kappa, opioid receptor.

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FIGURE 1-1

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FIGURE 1-2

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		910			92	0		9	30			940			95	0		9	60
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GGTA	CTG	GTA	GTT	GTG	GCT	GTG	TTT	GTG	GGC	TGC	TGG	ACA	CCT	GTG	CAG	GTC	TTT	GTC	CI
V	L	V	V	V	A	V	F	V	G	С	W	T	P	V	Q	V	F	V	L
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V	Q	G	L	G	V	Q	P	G	S	E	T	A	V	A	I	L	R	F	С
		210			122	0		12	30		1	240			125	0		12	60
CACA	GCC	CTG	GGC	TAI	GTC	AAC	AGT	TGT	CTC	:AAI	CCC	ATT	CTC	TAT	GCT	TTC	TTG	GAT	GA
T	A	L	G	Y	V	N	S	С	L	N	P	I	L	Y	A	F	L	D	E
	1	270			128	0		12	90		1	300			131	0		13	20
GAAC	TTC	AAG	GCC	TGC	TTT	AGA	AAG	TTC	TGC	TGI	GCT	TCT	GCC	CTG	CAC	CGG	GAG	ATG	CA
N	F	K	A	C	F	R	K	F	С	С	A	S	A	L	H	R	E	M	Q
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FIGURE 1-3

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ATCCAC	AACTCAGTGG	ACATGCCTGG	TGAACCCATG	TAGGTATTCA	TGGTTCACTI	GACT
	1630	1640	1650	1660	1670	1680
CTTCTC	TGGTTTCTCC	crecreccu	GGTTCTAGGT	rgggchcagch	GAGGTATIGI	AGII
	1600	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740
CTCATC	1690 TAGTCACTAI	TOU TGTGACTACC	TGTTGTGTGC	TATTGCCCT	CAGCCTTCAGT	GTTT
GICAIG	INGICACIAI	1010/101110				
	1750	1760	1770	1780	1790	1800
GCACAG	AACTGGTGAT	CATACCCAGT	GTTGCCTGG	CCTTAAGCTT	rggagttgcc1	TGGA
					1050	1060
	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860
GCATCI	AGTTCTGACT	CCACTGATGC	ATTCAGATTA	ACCIGAGGIGG	GIGAGCAICA	10100
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GGACTT	CACACTTCAT	CTGGTACTG	CACTGCCTG	CTCTACCAAC	CTGGACCACCI	TCTC
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	2050	2060	2070	2080	2090	2100
ССУСТО	TGAACTCTT	ATTCTACAGAC	TGTTTGGCA	AGCCCTGCTT	CTAACTGTGTG	GGAA
	2110	2120	2130	2140	2150	2160
GTAAT	CAGGAGAAAAT	rtctgtggcc1	CTGTAGGCT	GCTCACAGCA'	rggaggcacca	ACATG
	0170	2100	2100	2200	2210	2220
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CTCTC	CTTATTCTCC	ACAGCCTCCC	CAGCTCTCC	AGCAGTCGCT	CTTTTACTTG	ACAGT
	2290	2300	2310	2320	2330	
AGAGG'	TAGCAGCAG'	TTGTACTCGT/	AGAAACACAC	TIGTAGCCCG	GGAAGACIGG	MG I CM
	2350	2360	2370	2380	2390	2400
CCATC	TGTTCTATTC	TATACCCACA(TGACCACCT			ACATA
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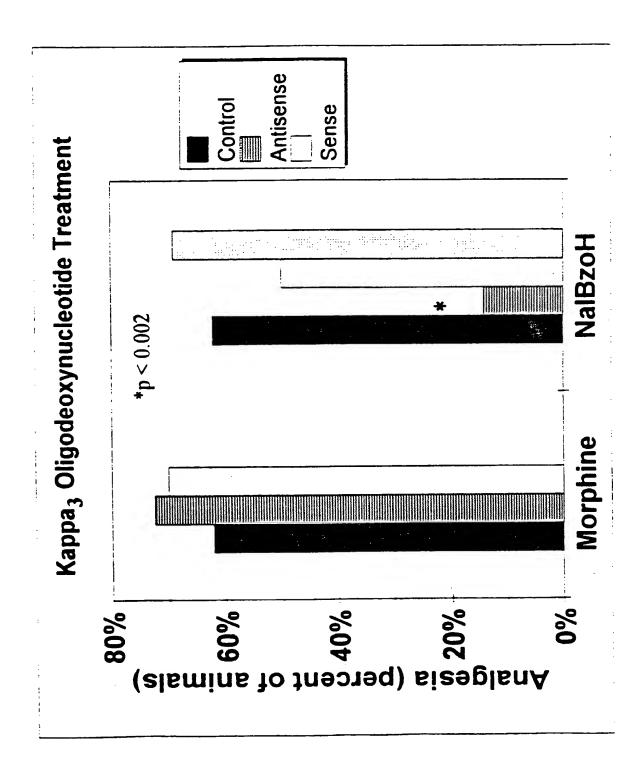
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FIGURE 1-4

2530	2540	2550	2560	2570	2580
CGATACCTTGGAGA	TATATTGTT	GGTTCACAGA	AGAAGAGGCT	TTGTAAATGC	CCTTTCT
2590 ATGGGTCAGATAAA	2600 AAAAAA	2610	2620	2630	2640

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FIGURE 2



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International application No. PCT/US94/12728

IPC(6) US CL	SSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER :C07K 14/705, 16/00; C12N 5/10, 15/09, 15/63; C1 :435/6, 7.1, 69.1, 240.1, 320.1; 530/350, 387.1, 39 to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both	95; 536/23.1							
B. FIEI	DS SEARCHED								
Minimum d	ocumentation searched (classification system followed	d by classification symbols)							
U.S. :	U.S. : 435/6, 7.1, 69.1, 240.1, 320.1; 530/350, 387.1, 395; 536/23.1								
Documentat	Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched								
Electronic o	data base consulted during the international search (na	ame of data base and, where practicable	, search terms used)						
1	edline, Biosis, WPI erms: kappa3 opioid receptor, cloning, recombi	nant production, agonist antagonist	, antibodies						
C. DOC	CUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT								
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim N .						
Y	Federation of European Biochemic issued 1994, Chen et al, "M Distribution and Chromosomal Member of the Opioid Receptor C 293, see pages 280-283.	1-46							
Y	Biochemical Journal, Volume 2 November 1993, Chen et al, "M κOpioid Receptor Reveals Sequence δ Opioid receptors", pages 625-62	olecular Cloning of a Rat ce Similarities to the μ and	1-46						
X Furth	ner documents are listed in the continuation of Box C								
1	ecial categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the inte date and not in conflict with the applica-	ation but cited to understand the						
	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered principle or theory underlying the invention to be of particular relevance								
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cita	*L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other								
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US94/12728

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
Y	Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Volume 85, issued October 1988, Goldstein et al, "'DAKLI': A Multipurpose Ligand with High Affinity and Selectivity for Dynorphin (κOpioid) Binding Sites", pages 7375-7379, see pages 7377-7378.	1-46
Y .	Proceedings of the National Acadmy of Sciences, Volume 90, Number 21, issued 01 November 1993, Meng et al, "Cloning and Pharmacological Characterization of a Rat κ Opioid Receptor", Pages 9954-9958, see pages 9955-9957.	1-46
Y	Federation of European Biochemical Societies, Volume 348, issued 1994, Wang et al, "cDNA Cloning of an Orphan Opiate Receptor Gene Family Member and its Splice Variant", pages 75-79, see page 77.	1-46
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